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CLUBS SAY TIME FOR PUBLIC TO ACCEPT MORE RESPONSIBILITY

ClubsNSW has welcomed comments by Police Minister Michael Daley reminding drinkers of the need to accept personal responsibility for their behavior when drinking at licensed premises.

Figures from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) show that assaults in clubs are continuing to decline, a trend that has been occurring since 2004.

CEO of ClubsNSW David Costello said for a significant reduction in alcohol related violence to occur, the community needed to accept the same responsibilities government and police expect of licensed premises.

“Only 20% of alcohol is consumed at clubs and hotels. More importantly, 90% of all assaults occur in the home.

“Government and police and even the media have all publicly demanded better standards from the hospitality industry. Clubs in fact have been calling for many years for sections of the hospitality industry to clean up their act.

“However a 50% reduction in alcohol related assaults in clubs and hotels represents just a 5% reduction in the overall number of assaults in NSW.

“People drinking alcohol in the home need to accept responsibility for their behavior and recognise that their behavior have contributed to the extreme measures now in place for some hotels, nightclubs and a handful of clubs.

“I have spoken with both the Police Minister and Gaming and Racing Minister on this issue and expressed my concern that the crackdown on anti-social behavior in clubs and hotels has limited potential for success unless people start improving their own behavior in the home.

“There is always going to be a small section of the public who drink and behave irresponsibly. There are hundreds of documented cases during the past year alone of people being refused alcohol in licensed premises, who have simply continued their drinking in the home and where police have ended up having to attend. These are the people who need to change.

“Indeed in at least one tragic case this year, a young man died after drinking heavily at a private party after earlier being refused service at his local club.

“I know the government and police are serious in their demands for people to drink more responsibly. I just hope the community is equally committed, as there is limited value in having special alcohol measures that apply only to licensed venues and to no-one and nowhere else,” David Costello said.

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